6/12/68

Dear Gary,

I've had these Similas documents in this envelope for a month and just didn't get around to mailing. Apologies.

I have taken another look at the NYTimes 11/23/63 story. Here is a marked copy. This clearly tells me that Similas places himself on the south side of Dealey Plaza, where he thought the shots came from his left and behind him and that this was the first shot. It is interesting that he, too, immediately thought he saw a Secret Service man.

The left-temple wound is not from him alone (includes McClelland). But the visible blood in hair is not visible in Zapruder.

This also means that Similas stayed there for some time. I think it would be a good idea if you fellows could get a copy of a picture of him and for at least Sprague to examine it. What Bernabei writes about his picture showing the open third-from east sixth-floor window can also be found in the printed pictures. I forget where I found these, but I think in preparation from what I wrote about Rowland in part II of WWII? Wish I had time to check it out. Probably Sprague has checked out detective in checkered jacket of whom Bernabei asked me.

What Bernabei says, that someone was there before the rifle was found, is obvious. That this was known also is. Look in the index to WHITEWASH under Lt. Day, who testified that the stack of boxes had been moved. Sorry I haven't time to look it up.

I hope you got copies of the pictures from Similas and that I can see them.

Please also ask him if he can give any clues on the babushka lady, who may have been near him. Have you any pictures in which he can locate himself? If he made any notes on the Kennedy wounds, this could be very helpful. Even the original Star interview, or the text of his recording, may contain such clues.

However, he also describes what did not happen-the open door and the sliding President, if correctly quoted. Connally was not on JFK's right. For a fraction of a second after Z313, when JFK pivoted before he fell, almost invisible in the motion picture, it was. Even if Similas were directly abreast of the car at that moment, he could have had a clear view of the left temple. Then, however, with JFK turned, Connally was on his right.

Anxious to hear what you two learned. If you can identify the jacketed detective (as through Sprague, radio logs, etc) I'd also be interested in knowing.

Best regards,

Harold Weisberg